

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I think the first place we have to start is with the legislation I introduced last week, with a constitutional amendment that honors the promise that was made to Americans, a constitutional amendment that protects the Social Security Trust Fund, a constitutional amendment that protects the Medicare trust fund, a constitutional amendment that protects our public employees' retirement system, a constitutional amendment that protects our military retirement system. I introduced it last week. I would invite the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) and every Member of Congress to coauthor it. I would invite every American to demand that their Congress keep the promises that were made to them, and start with a constitutional amendment that says from this day forward, we will stop stealing from Social Security and we will stop stealing from Medicare and we will stop stealing from military retirement, we will stop stealing from the civilian retirement, and our highest priority is going to be to pay back those funds that have already been taken.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, it sounds like to me if the gentleman's constitutional amendment had been the law in the Federal Government, that the trust funds of the Federal Government would be just like the trust funds that I am familiar with from my service in the Texas legislature. Because at the State level, and I suspect in every State in the union, when they set up the State employees' retirement trust fund and the teacher retirement system trust fund, the legislature actually puts dollars into those funds that are truly locked away and invested over time in real assets that are earning interest and increasing the value, the cash asset value of those trust funds. But because in Washington, we created trust funds that we allowed the government, the Congresses of years past to borrow from to do other things, what we are left with in Washington is trust funds with no cash, with no investment value, other than the fact that they hold an IOU, a Treasury obligation that does earn interest, but ultimately can only be paid through the taxing power of the Federal Government, because there is really no money there to pay the benefits that are guaranteed to the Social Security recipients, to the Medicare recipients, to the Federal employees who retire, to the military retirees. It is the taxing power of the future that will have to be used to honor those commitments.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. SHOWS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for March 6 and today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. SKELTON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for March 8 on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BACA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KILPATRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HILLIARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JEFFERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CLYBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOSWELL, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mrs. BIGGERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TANCREDO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GILCHREST, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, March 8.

The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 8, 2001, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1123. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Angel Gate Academy Program Report, directed by Senate Report 106-298, to be submitted by February 15, 2001, will be

turned in late; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1124. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Clarification of WIC Mandates of Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (RIN: 0584-AC51) received March 5, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1125. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2000 annual report on the Loan Repayment Program for Research Generally, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2541-1(i); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1126. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) AIDS Research Loan Repayment Program (LRP) for FY 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1127. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals From Disadvantaged Backgrounds (CR-LRP) for FY 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1128. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report on the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program (CIR-LRP) for FY 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1129. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Procedures for Reviewing Requests for Relief From State and Local Regulations Pursuant to Section 332(c)(7)(B)(v) of the Communications Act of 1934 [WT Docket No. 97-192] received February 26, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1130. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to Russia [Transmittal No. DTC 034-01], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

1131. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

1132. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the President's determination regarding certification of the 24 major illicit drug producing and transit countries, pursuant to section 490 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on International Relations.

1133. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1134. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.